

Who is Eligible?

To be eligible for supports funded through the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals, individuals must meet the following definition of developmental disability, as stated in RI State Law:

"The term 'developmental disability' means a severe, chronic disability of a person which:

- Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments
- Is manifested before the person attains age twenty-two (22)
- Is likely to continue indefinitely
- Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activities:
 - Personal care
 - Communication
 - Mobility
 - Learning
 - Self-direction
 - Capacity for independent living
 - Economic self-sufficiency
- Reflects the person's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic care, treatment, or other services which are life-long or of extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated."

Not all disabilities which manifest before age twenty-two are developmental disabilities. Mental illness is not the same as a developmental disability. Individuals with serious mental illness may contact BHDDH's Division of Behavioral Healthcare for referral assistance.

What Supports Are Available through your DD Provider?

Support Coordination - Helps people plan and work toward a better future.

Transportation - Helps people get to and from day and community activities.

Day and Community Activities - Helps people become a part of and contribute to the local community.

Assistive Technology - Specialized equipment and supplies that are specified in the individual's service plan.

Family Supports - Supports families with personal care, homemaker and respite services.

Vocational Services/Supported Employment - Assists with the development of specified job skills necessary for successful employment.

Emergency Assistance - Responds to emergency and crisis situations.

Environmental Adaptations and Home Modifications - Helps make homes ADA accessible based on individual needs.

Housing Supports - Provides supports and skills necessary to maintain an independent living in the community.

Telephone/Voice: (401)-462-3421
TDD: (401) 462-6087



What's Next for Me?

Supports & Services For Community Life

Department of Behavioral Healthcare,
Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals
14 Harrington Road, Cranston, RI 02920

Our Mission... What Do We Do?

The Department is responsible for planning, providing and administering supports for adults with developmental disabilities and their families in Rhode Island by:

- Safeguarding the well-being of people with developmental disabilities and protecting them from abuse, neglect and mistreatment
- Ensuring equitable access to and allocation of available resources
- Enhancing the quality of support so that people with disabilities can identify and move toward personal futures of inclusion and participation in community life

Our Values... What Do We Believe?

In carrying out this mission, the Department upholds these principles:

- Each person is unique; supports and services are responsive to the individual and his/her particular situation.
- All of us develop and grow within a community of relationships; supports and services help build relationships.
- Each person deserves respect; we strive to meet the highest standards of personal and professional integrity.

Receiving Services From the RI Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals

Step 1 Apply for Eligibility

Apply to the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH) to see if you are eligible to receive supports. Call (401) 462-3421 to get an application.

BHDDH will send you an application and will help you complete the application if you need assistance.

If you are not eligible, you can review the decision with the Department. After review, those who are not eligible for supports may be referred to alternative services.

Applicants approaching age 21 should apply 18 months prior to turning 21 so that all supports can be arranged and gaps in services can be avoided.

Call for an Application
(401)-462-3421
TDD: (401) 462-6087

Step 2 Meet with a DD Social Worker

Once you are found eligible, you will meet with your DD Social Worker. The social worker will get to know you and your family. In addition, he or she will talk to you about your plans for the future and determine which supports you may need.

The social worker will assist you in finding a certified service provider and can discuss the option of self-directed care with you.

Your social worker can also help you apply for Medicaid through the Executive Office of Health & Human Services (EOHHS).

Step 3 Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) Assessment

The SIS (Support Intensity Scale) is a standardized assessment tool designed by the American Association on intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) to measure the pattern and intensity of supports that an adult with a developmental disability requires to be successful in a community setting. The tool is administered by a certified SIS worker and is administered with two or more respondents who know the person well. This may include a parent, sibling, spouse/significant other, friend, neighbor, roommate, employer, or other family members. Other possible respondents may be a member of the direct support professional staff, a support coordinator or another provider.

Step 4 Choose a Service Provider

The next step is to choose your service provider or you may choose to manage your own self-directed plan. If you decide to select a service provider, you should work with whoever is helping you complete a Support Agreement between you and the service provider. This Agreement will give a brief description of the services you plan to purchase and how the agency will supply them. Once the agreement is completed it is submitted to the Department for review and approval of authorized services.

Step 5 Individual Service Plan (ISP)

After your services begin, you have 90 days to develop an Individual Service Plan (ISP) and submit it to the Department. If you are working with a service provider, they will help coordinate this for you.

Step 6 Review of Plan

Throughout the year, the Department will review your plan and the services you are receiving throughout the year to find out if it meets your needs. In order to renew your funding, you must complete an ISP annually and send it to the Department 45 days prior to your anniversary date.

Contact your DD Social Worker right away, if you have a major life change and your supports need to be changed.

Office of Social Services

We provide personal assistance to individuals and their families to obtain needed supports.

Responsibilities of this office include:

- Referral
- Eligibility Determination
- Service Coordination
- Crisis Intervention
- Family Support
- Follow-up Supports

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Office of Quality Improvement

"Any person who has knowledge of, or reason to believe, that a developmentally disabled person has been a victim of abuse, neglect, mistreatment, human rights violation or serious incident, should submit, within 24 hours or by the end of the next business day, a report to the Office of Quality Improvement (QI), Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)"

Telephone/Voice: (401)-462-2629
FAX: (401) 462-1273